

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00890 022322Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /087 W

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R 021645Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4225

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0890

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SG, AG

SUBJECT: SAHARA, SENEGAL AND ALGERIA

REF: ALGIERS 858

1. SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR DELGADO 1 APRIL GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING  
RUNDOWN ON SENEGALESE FONMIN SECK VISIT ALGIERS MARCH 29:

A. SECK'S VISIT WAS "EXPLORATORY FACT-FINDING" MISSION;  
HE VISITED VIVE CAPITALS OF AREA WITH SOLE PURPOSE OF LISTENING  
TO VIEWS. HE MADE NO PROPOSITIONS.

B. WHEN APPROACHED ABOUT VISIT AHEAD OF TIME ALGERIANS  
INDICATED SECK WOULD BE WELCOME. MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE  
AND BOUTEFLIKA GAVE SECK DEFINITE IMPRESSION OF ALGERIAN  
INTEREST IN PURSUING DIALOGUE ON SAHARA AND "KEEPING DOOR  
OPEN". DELGADO PROVIDED NO PRECISE DETAILS AS TO POSSIBLE  
FUTURE EVOLUTION, AND LEFT IMPRESSION DISCUSSION CONFINED  
TO GENERALITIES.

C. SECK WENT AWAY FROM ALGERIA ENCOURAGED. FACTORS IN  
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00890 022322Z

THIS ENCOURAGEMENT, IN ADDITION TO BOUMEDIENE/BOUTEFLIKA

APPARENT FLEXIBILITY, WERE: (I) HIS BEING RECEIVED AT ALL AFTER SENEGAL'S SPONSORSHIP OF PRO-MOROCCAN UN RESOLUTION; (II) BOUMEDIENE EXPRESSING "REGRET" FOR RECENT PRESS ATTACKS ON SENGHOR AND ASSURANCES THEY WOULD NOT BE REPEATED; (III) WARMTH OF RECEPTION IN SPITE OF CURRENT ALGERIAN PRESSURE ON NIGERIANS TO ATLOW ARAB STATE PARTICIPATION IN LAGOS FESTIVAL.

2. SECK NOW BACK IN SENEGAL PONDERING RESULTS OF MISSION AND FIGURING OUT WITH SENGHOR WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SENEGAL CAN DO TO RESOLVE IMPASSE.

3. SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR HIMSELF CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT ALGERIANS SEEKING WAY OUT OF CURRENT SITUATION. HE PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT BILATERAL CONTROVERSIES, COMMENTING THAT DISPUTES BOUND TO ARISE GIVEN DIFFERENT ORIENTATION OF REIMES. DISPUTE ALWAYS RESOLVED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE ALGERIANS RECOGNIZE THEIR POLICY OF CULTIVATION OF AFRICAN SUPPORT CANNOT AFFORD HAVE SENGHOR IN PERMANENT OPPOSITION. AT SAME TIME, HE SAID, SENEGALESE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE WEIGHT ALGERIANS HAVE IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND ALSO WISH AVOID PERMANENT CONFRONTATION. THUS, QUITE APART FROM WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN SAHARA, AMBASSADOR CONSIDERED SECK VISIT USEFUL IN THAT IT "THAWED CURRENT FREEZE" IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.PARKER

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